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Letter dated 27 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letters of 22 September 2004 (S/2004/751), 27 September 2004 (S/2004/762) and 27 September 2004 (S/2004/767), the Ndjamena Ceasefire Agreement, as you are aware, calls for the specification of the locations of the rebels and requires the two parties to notify the Ceasefire Commission in advance of the movements of their forces in order to enable the Commission to observe compliance with the ceasefire and facilitate the process of placing the rebel forces in camps with a view to their disarmament.

By way of confirmation of our repeated admonitions to the Security Council regarding the consequences of wrong messages, I regret to inform you that the rebels have continued until now to refuse to specify their positions; rather, they have recently begun to act as they please in open contempt of the international community. In the past few days, in fact, the rebels have carried out a number of military operations against villages and towns.

The operations have targeted not only civilians but also police forces deployed by the Government in Darfur pursuant to Security Council resolution 1556 (2004), the commitments contained in the joint communiqué with the Secretary-General and the Darfur action plan. What is even more serious is that rebel operations have expanded to include areas outside Darfur that are not covered by the Ndjamena Ceasefire Agreement, as in the case of the village of Ghubaysh in West Kordofan state. That operation resulted in dozens of civilian deaths, bank robberies and the destruction of local institutions.

Despite the Government's commitment to the ceasefire and the fact that it is marked by the utmost self-control with regard to the rebels' provocations and constant violations of the ceasefire, the Government's responsibilities require it to perform its duties of protecting civilians, maintaining law and order and protecting the police forces deployed in the region under an agreement with the United Nations and in compliance with the Security Council resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

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